(c) to (e) In order to reduce the anxiety of the litigants and the need for early delivery of judgements after the hearing is over the Arrears Committee has suggested as below:

"Reserved judgements should ordinarily be pronounced within six weeks of the conclusion of the arguments. In the event of judgements not being pronounced within three months of the conclusion of the arguments, the Chief Justice may either post the case for delivering judgement in open court or withdraw the case and post it for disposal before an appropriate Bench. Appropriate rule or statutory provision should be made for this purpose."

The Chief Justice of the High Courts have been advised to make appropriate rule or provision and direct the concerned authorities for early delivery of the judgements after the hearing is over.

Civil Procedure Code has been amended in 2002 to provide a time-limit for delivery of judgements.

Fast Courts going slow

584. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the setting up of the Fast Track Courts for dispensing quicker justice has not yet gained momentum in different States as brought out in a news-item captioned, "Fast Courts going slow", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 11th January, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken to speed up the process and also to reorient the functioning of these courts for quicker disposal of cases in the light of the experience gained, so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir. As per available information, 1307 Fast Track Courts have been notified by various States in the country, out of which 990 Fast Track Courts have already started functioning. These courts have so far disposed of 77,023 cases.

(b) It is the paimary responsibility of the State Governments and the High Courts to administer these courts as envisaged under the Fast Track Court Scheme. The Supreme Court in its Judgement dated the

6th May, 2002 in Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Others has laid down guidelines for the efficient functioning of these courts and the monitoring of their disposal & review of functioning by High Courts.

Guidelines include:-

"At least one Administrative Judge shall be nominated in each High Court to monitor the disposal of cases by Fast Track Courts and to resolve the difficulties and shortcomings, if any, with the administrative support and cooperation of the concerned State Government. State Government shall ensure requisite cooperation to the Administrative Judge.

The concerned High Court shall periodically review the functioning of the Fast Track Courts and in case of any deficiencies and/or shortcoming, take immediate remedial measures taking into account views of the Administrative Judge nominated."

The Central Government is also constantly persuading the State Government and the High Courts to establish all the Fast Track Court and make them functional as soon as possible. The Minister of Law & Justice has been periodically addressing the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in this regard. The Minister addressed them last on this issue on 31st December, 2002.

Disposal of cases by Lok Adalats

585. SHRI RANGANATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lok Adalats are involved in forum for disposal of cases on the basis of consent jurisdiction;

(b) whether using of such a forum for final disposal of cases is with the consent of the parties to the litigation; and

(c) whether a ban of appeal against the decision of such forum is tenable in law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.